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Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1925.

George Brown, Printer, Ashby.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present you with my third Annual Report.

I. Nature and Social Conditions of the Area.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is situated at the junction of several important roads and is the centre of both an important agricultural and colliery area.

It is an old town and contains, in its central area, much old property.

The population is composed of all classes, but the working class is the most numerous.

Area, 3949 acres.

Population, at Census 1921, 4983.

,, Estimated at mid-year 1925, 5269.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921), 1098.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921), 1119.

Rateable Value, £27,651 1s. 0d.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £91 5s. 5d.

II. Vital Statistics.

Births: Boys 45, (3 illegitimate,) Girls 50, (2 illegitimate.) Total, 95 (5 illegitimate). This gives a Birth Rate of 18·03. This rate for England and Wales was 18·3 in 1925, and has been for Ashby, in 1924—18·7, in 1923—20·5.

Deaths: Male 40, Females 33. Total 73. Thus the Death Rate is 13·8. The Death Rate for England and Wales in 1925 was 12·2, and has been for Ashby, in 1924—9·4, in 1923—11·0.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Whooping Cough	2	2	4
Diphtheria	1	0	1
Influenza	0	2	2
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	0	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	2	4
Other Tuberculous diseases ...	0	4	4
Cancer, malignant disease ...	3	4	7
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	7	1	8
Heart Disease	4	2	6
Arterio-sclerosis	3	0	3
Bronchitis	5	1	6
Pneumonia (all forms)... ...	2	1	3
Diarrhœa, etc., (under 2 years) ...	0	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	0	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	1	1
Congenital Debility, etc. ...	1	4	5
Violence other than Suicide ...	1	2	3
Other defined diseases... ...	8	5	13

It will be noted that no woman died of, or in consequence of childbirth, that four children died from Whooping Cough and one from Diarrhœa (under two years). There were no deaths from Measles.

Infantile Mortality. As there were ten deaths of Infants under one year, (all of which occurred among the legitimate Infants,) the Infantile Mortality Rate is 105·2. This rate for England and Wales in 1925 is 75, and was, for this Urban District, in 1923—86·5, in 1924—51·5. These large annual variations in the rate are largely due to the small size of the district.

Poor Law Relief. There is no doubt that this is increasing, but the figures are not available.

Use of Hospitals, Etc. The Cottage Hospital is becoming more useful and there is no great hesitation on the part of the population to utilise the other Hospitals outside the area which take in cases from the Urban District.

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness during the year, nor were there any conditions of employment or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

General Professional Nursing in the home is done by the District Nurse, provided by the Nursing Association. There are no arrangements for the nursing of such Infectious Diseases as Measles at home. Only one Midwife, the District Nurse, practises in the District.

The County Council provides an Infant Welfare Centre at Ashby, a School Clinic at Coalville, a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Coalville, and a Venereal Disease Clinic at Loughborough.

A Venereal Disease Clinic is also available at Burton-on-Trent General Infirmary. There is no Day Nursery.

Tuberculosis Sanatoria and Residential Dispensaries are provided by the County Council, the nearest being at Coalville.

The Leicester Maternity Hospital is available for difficult confinements requiring Institutional treatment.

Fever Hospitals are provided by the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals Committee, the nearest being at Coalville.

Small Pox Hospitals at Snarestone and Syston are provided by the County Council.

There is an important General Hospital at Leicester, which also takes in sick children, and smaller hospitals of the same type at Loughborough and Burton-on-Trent. The Cottage Hospital and the Poor Law Infirmary at Ashby take general cases.

There is no special Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district.

Infectious cases are removed in the ambulances of the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals Committee, while non-infectious cases are removed by the Ashby St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

Public Health Staff. One Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector, both part-time. Contributions are made to their salaries from the Exchequer Grants.

Water Supply. This is of good quality and is supplied by the Swadlincote and Ashby Joint Water Board.

Rivers and Streams. There have been no complaints of pollution during 1925.

Sewage Disposal. Sewage is treated at the Packington Sewage Farm and the resulting effluent is satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation. It will be noted from the Sanitary Inspector's Report (below) that there are still Privies, but that no new ones were provided in 1925.

Scavenging. Details are given below in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sanitary Administration.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT. Year 1925.

Total No. of complaints received during the year, 26.

,, inspections made for all purposes, 242.

,, notices served, 198. Informal, 169. Statutory, 29.

,, summonses issued, nil.

,, convictions obtained, nil.

Insanitary Houses: No. inspected (Public Health Act, 1875), 19. No. cleaned, 14.

Smoke Nuisances: No. of observations, nil. Nuisances abated, nil.

Overcrowding: No. of houses inspected, 21. Nuisances abated, 2.

Offensive Accumulations: No. inspected, 5. Nuisances abated, 4.

Closet Accommodation.

Total No. in District at the end of the year:
(1) Privies, 81. (2) Pail Closets, 83. (3) W.C.'s, 703.

Privies (middens): No. of new provided, nil. No. repaired, nil.
No. converted to (a) Pails, 3. (b) W.C.'s, 10.

Pails or Earth Closets: No. of new provided, 6.
No. converted to W.C.'s, 6.

Water Closets: No. of new provided, 23.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Drains, drain traps, etc.: No. inspected, 36. Nuisanc's abated, 24.

Cesspools: No. repaired, cleansed, etc., 4.
No. abolished and drains connected to sewer, nil.

Scavenging.

How is refuse disposed of? Refuse carted to tip and burnt. Ashbins emptied weekly, Ashpits periodically.

Is refuse destructor available? No.

Ashpits: No. of new provided, nil. No. converted to Ashbins, 3.
No. of new provided, 23.

Water Supply.

No. of samples taken for analysis, nil. No. condemned, nil.

Wells: No. closed, nil. No. cleansed, repaired, etc., nil.

No. of instances where public supply was instituted for the well, nil.

Infectious Diseases.

Houses: No. inspected, 92. No. of inspections, 262.

No. disinfected: (a) Houses, 64. (b) Schoolrooms, 8.

What are the arrangements for disinfection of:

(a) Bedding? Spraying and soaking in disinfecting solution.

(b) Premises? Spraying with disinfecting solution and fumigating with Formalin Gas.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, Etc.

	No. in District.	No. Registered.	No. of Inspections.	No. of C'ntrav'ntions found.	General Conditions.
Common Lodging Houses	2	2	8	3	Not satisfactory.

Canal Boats, nil.

Offensive Trades, nil.

Food Supply.

No. of seizures: (a) Meat, nil. No. of summonses issued, nil.
(b) Other, nil. ,, ,, nil.

No. of convictions obtained: (a) Meat, nil. (b) Other, nil.

No. of Parcels surrendered: (a) Meat, 3. (b) Other, 4.

No. of carcases or parts of carcases condemned for:
(a) Tuberculosis, 2. (b) Other diseases, nil.

State arrangements for disposal of condemned meat: Burnt at Gas Works.

Private Slaughter Houses:

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
No. Registered	6	5	5
No. Licensed	1	1	1

General condition of Slaughter Houses, good.

No. of inspections of premises, 36.

No. of contraventions of bye-laws, 2.

Has Public Abbattoir been established? No.

No. of inspections of Meat at time of slaughter, 18.

State arrangements for inspection at time of slaughter: Butchers notify day and time of slaughter. No special arrangements made for inspection, surprise visits made.

Meat Marking: Has approval been given? No.

Meat Stalls: No. of inspections. No Meat Stalls.
No. of contraventions found, nil.

Meat Shops, Stores, etc.: No. of inspections, 26.
No. of contraventions found, 2.

Meat Transport and Handling: No. of contraventions found, nil.

Total No. of inspections of places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale, 4.

No. of contraventions found, 1.

Milk Supply (Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops Order, 1885-1889, etc.,) Milk & Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922).

Have regulations been adopted? Yes.

Has Veterinary Inspector been appointed? Yes.

Retail Purveyors.

(a) Register: No. on, 17.

(b) Premises: Total No. of inspections made, 34.
No. of contraventions found, 5.

No. found to require (a) Cleansing, 3. (b) Structural or sanitary improvements, 2.

Wholesale Traders and Producers.

(a) Register: No. on, 15.

(b) Premises: Total No. of inspections made, 30.
No. of contraventions found, 4.

No. found to require (1) Cleansing, 2. (b) Structural or sanitary improvements, 2.

No. of samples of Milk taken for bacteriological examination, nil.

Total No. of Milch Cows in District, 450.

Legal proceedings: No. of summonses issued, nil.
No. of convictions obtained, nil.

THE MILK (Special Designations) ORDER, 1923.

Licenses: (a) No. issued, nil. (b) No. withdrawn by Sanitary Authority, nil. (c) No. refused and reasons for refusal, nil.

Examinations: (a) Bacteriological.

No. of samples taken from distributors, nil.

(b) Veterinary.

(1) Total No. made, twice yearly.

(2) No. Milch Cows found to be suffering with

(a) General Tuberculosis, 15.

(b) Tuberculosis of Udder, nil.

(c) Other diseases, nil.

State method of disposal of Cows affected with the above diseases: Slaughtered and sent to Knacker's yard.

State types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of Milk (if any): Nil.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Workshops: No. on Register (to include bakehouses), 18

No. of nuisances abated, 2.

Bakehouses: No. on Register, 4. Sanitary condition, good.

No. of nuisances abated, 1.

Homework: No. of outworkers, 6.

Legal proceedings: No. of summons issued, nil.

No. of convictions obtained, nil.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Sections 21 and 22 of the Public Health Act, 1925, together with those sections contained in Part V. have been adopted.

The Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907, has been adopted.

The following Bye-laws and Regulations are in force:

Cleansing of Footpaths ...	1896
Nuisances	do.
Common Lodging Houses ...	do.
Markets	do.
Slaughter Houses	do.
Offensive Trades	do.
Sanitary Conveniences ...	do.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	1886
Water Supply Regulations ...	1891

Special Investigations, Etc.

No. of special investigations or reports made during the year, nil.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

If appointed to act as officer? No. No. of visits paid, nil.

Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894-1909.

If appointed to act as officer? No. No. of visits paid, nil.

Housing.

No. of new houses erected during year:

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under b), 11.

(b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts:

(1) By the Local Authority, nil.

(2) By other bodies or persons, 4.

Unfit Dwelling Houses. I.—Inspection.

(1) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 46.

(2) No. of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, 16.

(3) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 2.

(4) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 14.

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, 6.

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, nil.

(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners, nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, nil.

(3) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close, nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 32.

(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners, 23.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders, nil.

(2) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made, nil.

(3) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit, nil.

(4) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made, nil.

(5) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders, nil.

G. E. MARLOW,
Sanitary Inspector.

Housing.

The older parts of the town contain dwelling houses which are not up to modern standards, but the newer parts compare quite favourably with similar towns.

Overcrowding is not so prevalent as a year or two ago.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hosp'l.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	14	5	0
Diphtheria	18	6	1
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Pneumonia	24	0	3
Chicken-Pox	33	0	0

In 1924, there were 10 cases of Scarlet Fever, with no mortality, whilst in 1923 there were no cases. It is satisfactory to note that 5 cases out of the 14 in 1925 were admitted to hospital, whilst in 1924 none were admitted.

As regards Diphtheria, in 1924 there were 4 cases and one death,—these cases (in 1924) were of a very severe type. In 1923 there were no cases.

Pnemonia was not very fatal in 1925; in 1924 there were 10 cases notified, with no death; in 1923 there were 16 notifications, with 3 deaths.

In my opinion the increase in the number of cases notified in 1925 is due rather to the better notification of the disease than to a large increase in its prevalence.

Chicken-Pox is permanently notifiable in the Urban District, and this notification is of value when Small-Pox is prevalent near the Area.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Notified Cases.	Treated at Home.	Treated in Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.
3	3	0	3

In addition, I received 3 notifications of Measles, which were sent in error, as the disease has not been notifiable since 1919.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
5—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
20—	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
25—	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
35—	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
45—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	4	2	1	0	2	2	0	4

No less than 6 out of the 8 deaths had not been previously notified ; this number includes 2 of the Pulmonary cases and all the Non-Pulmonary.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK, ETC.

The County Bacteriological Laboratory examined the following specimens from the Urban District in 1925 :

Throat Swabs for Diphtheria ...	46
Hairs for Ringworm (collected by School Nurses)	8
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ...	7
Films for Gonococci	5
Sewage and Water Analysis ...	2
Blood for Wassermann Tests ...	1
Urine (General and Bacteriological)	1
Total	70

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided, in accordance with the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910, for the treatment of the disease.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick Tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively during the year, and there had been no vaccinations under the Public Health (Small-Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

In concluding this Report I wish to acknowledge my obligation to the Sanitary Inspector for his able assistance, and his Annual Report is included in mine.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. E. ROPER SAUNDERS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Hons.),

Medical Officer of Health.